

## Standards

**Vermont GEs:** S 7-8: 36; 5-6: 49; S 7-8:49; S 5-6:1, 8; S 7-: 1, 8

**Vermont Framework: 7.13 cc; 7.15 ee; 7.1 aa, dd**

## Scenario

An agricultural company introduced a species of insect to the state of Vermont to help pollinate certain crops. This species quickly multiplied and became a major pest. A scientist working for the state is considering introducing a species of blackbird that eats these insects and might limit the growth of their population. The proposed project is called Project Blackbird.

1. List **two** questions the scientists should research about this species of blackbird before introducing it to Vermont.
2. Chose **one** of the questions you listed. Explain why the scientist needs an answer to this question in order to evaluate Project Blackbird and decide if the blackbirds should be introduced into the state.
3. After five years of study, what data might show that Project Blackbird was a success?
4. Soon after the blackbirds were introduced to control the insect pests, the population size of another species of bird decreased rapidly. Could the scientist conclude that this decrease was due to the introduction of the blackbirds? Why or why not?